

VLR-4/17/73 NRHP-5/22/73

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Patrick
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: _____

1. NAME
COMMON: Bob White Covered Bridge
AND/OR HISTORIC: _____

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: About 2 1/2 miles south of Woolwine on unpaved Virginia Route 708 just off State Route 618.
CITY OR TOWN: near Woolwine CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth; W. C. Daniel
STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Patrick CODE: 141

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process		<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		

4. CURRENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: Virginia Department of Highways
STREET AND NUMBER: _____
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Patrick County Court House
STREET AND NUMBER: _____
CITY OR TOWN: Stuart STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: Covered Bridge Locations - Department of Highways
DATE OF SURVEY: _____
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Virginia Department of Highways
STREET AND NUMBER: Public Information Office
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Patrick

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: _____
DATE: _____

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The eighty-foot heavy oak timber bridge is said to be a truss bridge constructed on the principles of the Burr arch, a combination of arches and radiating kingposts which was invented around 1804 by Theodore Burr and patented in 1817. Without destroying the fabric of the bridge, it would be difficult to ascertain definitively whether or not it is indeed a Burr truss. The interior of the bridge is of circular-sawn overlap diagonal sheathing (that is, the interior is sheathed once with the diagonal boards going in one direction and then again with the boards going in the opposite direction); the exterior is covered with boards-and-battens which are also circular-sawn and appear to have never been painted. The portals project and are supported by long corner bracing which is sheathed along with the sides of the bridge. The gables have board-and-batten sheathing.

The roof is constructed of common rafters mitered into each other at the peak of the gable. These timbers project above the side walls of the bridge and thus form simple rafter brackets. The bridge has open eaves; that is, the space between the rafters above the side walls and beneath the roof, is open to provide ventilation. A wind brace is placed next to every other rafter end and cross-bracing ends are mitered into each other at every fourth rafter. Finally, corner bracing extends from the same rafters to which the horizontal cross-braces are attached. In 1972 short reinforcing plates, projecting about twelve inches into the interior, have been fastened to some of the rafters under the eaves. The present roofing is of corrugated metal painted green and lies atop boards set across the rafters.

The bridge is set on crossties lying on three concrete piers. The approaches to the bridge are constructed upon dry-laid rubble piled against the end piers. The mid-stream, center pier, a cut-water, is flat on the eastern side, but V-shaped on the western, upstream side to help prevent the accumulation of debris. Inside the bridge, transverse boards form the flooring while longitudinal runners delineate wheel tracks. On the underside of the bridge, parallel boards run approximately beneath the runners; between these parallel boards are wooden V-trusses. Spaced between each pier are two iron-bolted, wooden tierods which have seasoning cracks.

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ACL

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☒ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1920-21

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education

☐ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☒ Engineering

☐ Religion/Phi-

☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Historic

☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Science

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Sculpture

☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-

☐ Commerce

☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications

☐ Military

☐ Theater

☐ Conservation

☐ Music

☒ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bob White Covered Bridge is one of Virginia's eleven remaining covered bridges and is an excellent example the timber bridge-building art. It and Meems Bottom Bridge in Shenandoah County are the only covered bridges still part of the State Highway system.

The bridge presumably takes its name from the Bob White Post Office which once stood nearby, but the origin of the name itself is unknown. Begun in 1920 and completed in the fall of 1921, the bridge was built under the direction of Walter Weaver, who also was responsible for the design of the nearby Jack's Creek Covered Bridge. Weaver also is reported to have been skilled in sawmilling, blacksmithing, and coffin making. Members of Weaver's family assisted in the construction of the bridge. One son worked as a carpenter while another acted as waterboy. A young daughter carried lunch to the site from the Weaver's home, two miles distant.

The bridge is used today mainly by churchgoers headed toward the nearby Smith River Church of the Brethren. The picturesque structure is enhanced by its unspoiled rural setting.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Taylor, James C., "They Came to See Relics of an Era",
Martinsville Bulletin, Sunday, June 13, 1971

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE			
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	36°	46'	46"
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Under 10 acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: A. C. Lee		DATE March, 1973
ORGANIZATION Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission		
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building		
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE Virginia	CODE 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name _____

Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

